



JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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DR. IWAMURA TO NEPAL

As a part of the closer cooperation, more intimate fellowship, and increased mutual support being encouraged and coordinated by the East Asia Christian Conference (EACC) among the Churches and Christian groups in Asia, Dr. Noboru Iwamura (29), medical doctor, and his wife Fumiko left Japan via India Airlines for Nepal on January 6.

The EACC, which has the special responsibility of liaison between its member Churches and Councils and the Division of Inter-Church Aid of the WCC in addition to mutual support within Asia, has sent in several requests to Japan NCC for medical workers to be sent to Southeast Asian nations. The Christian Medical Association (CMA), a member of the Japan NCC, has been attempting to meet these requests and last year decided to set up a yearly budget of ten million yen to develop and continue this vital program.

Dr. Iwamura and his wife will join two Japanese nurses (sent previously by the CMA) in Calcutta studying the language of Nepal since last June, and the four of them will continue on to Nepal to work at the 70 bed Tansen (phonetic) hospital

established by 12 European and American mission groups. At present there is only one doctor at the hospital, Dr. Carl Fredricks, an American Presbyterian. Dr. Iwamura will serve at the hospital for two or three years.

According to Dr. Iwamura there are only about 60 doctors in Nepal, a country of 8,300,000 souls which experiences epidemics of cholera in the summer with as many as 2,000 patients needing hospitalization each day during these periods. As a member of the UN there is supposed to be freedom of belief in Nepal, but the Constitution of the country actually prohibits any religion other than Hinduism. At present ten Christians, one a Baptist missionary from the U.S. be held in prison on charges of doing evangelism. The failure to reveal the presence of Christians as well as the profession of the Christian faith are punishable. Therefore the number of Christians in the country are unknown, although there are, as there were in Japan before the opening of the country, some "hidden Christians".

JAPAN BIBLE SCHOLARS AID DESIRED IN KOREAN BIBLE TRANSLATION

Eishin Nim, General Secretary of the Korea Bible Society, stopping in Japan on his way back from a meeting in England of the Standing Committee of the World Bible Society, held informal discussions with General Secretary Miyakoda of the Japan Bible Society and Senji Tsuru, Chairman of the Bible Translation Committee, and made the following comments concerning the present situation of the Korean Church and Bible translation in Korea.

"Although Korea is ruled by a military government the Christians are not being subjected to pressure. Rather, it was during the Chang regime interval that the Protestants were given callous treatment, as Chang was a Roman Catholic. There may be a military government at present, but, as has been announced, there will be a transfer of control to civil administration in February of 1963, a sanction of various political party activities will follow in March and general elections are scheduled in May, so there is no apprehension felt.

Also, concerning Japan-Korea relations, although there seems to be some apprehension in some quarters in Japan concerning negotiations with the present Korean government, such anxiety is unnecessary as the government hopes for an early materialization of talks and various exchange between our two countries.

Out of a total population of twenty-five million, about one and a half million are Christians including some 300,000 Roman Catholics; and the Christians influence is comparatively strong and active in all areas. Last year the Korean Church initiated a seven year program to translate the Bible into modern language. This will be the third translation, the first accomplished in 1910 and the second in 1936. In this task the aid of Japanese Bible scholars is desired, their presence at some of the translation committee meetings would be very helpful.

JAPAN BIBLE SOCIETY PLANS

General Secretary Tsunetaro Miyakoda revealed the following plans and hopes of the Japan Bible Society for 1962.

"Although the Bible Society is already distributing as many as two and a half million Bibles and scripture portions in a year, as the distribution of Bibles is a means of evangelism and our duty, we wish to carry out a distribution campaign in prefectures and cities which have not yet been covered. With the aid of various denominations we intend to commence our campaign in the Koto area of Tokyo with the mobilization of an audio-visual aids division to use films, paper theaters (Kamishibai) and other aids to tell the people what is written in the Bible and why it should be read. The actual campaign shall begin in March and continue for three years. Offices will be set up in the areas being emphasized and it is hoped that preachers talented in street preaching will cooperate with and aid in the program.

Last year ten thousand Bibles were sent to Indonesia, but this nowhere meets the need which is several times that number. There are plans to use some of the reparation funds, which Japan must pay Indonesia, to print Bibles in Japan for Indonesia, but as this plan has not yet been finalized, we wish to send at least another ten thousand Bibles this year to meet the needs of the local churches.

Also, a 'Pocket Bible' which has been in the planning for a long time will be published in February in answer to many requests for a Bible which can be carried in one's pocket."

KYODAN TO GIVE FINANCIAL BACKING TO 10-YEAR EVANGELISM PLAN

The United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan) will inaugurate a drive this year to continue until 1970 in an effort to raise 456,000,000 yen (\$1,266,666) for an Evangelism Fund and a Kyodan Endowment Fund. This will translate into reality the "One Billion yen Collection" proposal adopted at the Kyodan's 11th General Assembly in 1960.

The aforementioned proposal originated mainly with a group from the Osaka district who invisioned the raising of a one billion yen evangelism endowment fund and the use of the interest from this fund for evangelism. The proposal was adopted by the 11th General Assembly and a study committee was appointed to draw up concrete plans. The committee, after much deliberation, came to the following decisions:

- 1) To begin collection in 1962,
- 2) To collect six million yen in unsolicited contributions during the first year,
- 3) To approach all Christians for contributions beginning in 1963,
- 4) And to divide the period and amount of collection, commencing in 1963, into a first and second plan, the first

plan to continue for three years from 1963 to 1965 during which time a 100 million yen endowment fund and an evangelism fund of the same amount for a total of 200 million yen will be raised, the second plan also to be for a period of three years from 1968 to 1970, during which time the endowment fund will be increased by 100 million yen and an evangelism fund of 150 million for a total of 250 million yen will be raised.

The entire 250 million evangelism fund will be used during the ten year period from 1962 to 1972 for evangelistic purposes. The interest received from the 200 million endowment fund will be used for theological education and as "gratitude funds."

Some 250 people from all districts have been chosen to form a fund raising committee with several of these to serve on a standing committee. Rev. Isamu Omura Vice-Moderator of the Kyodan, will act as chairman, and Shohei Kudo, chairman of the Kyodan Finance Committee, Toyozo Mikumo, executive director of the Nikko Investment Company and Ikunomoto, president of the Japan Soap Company were elected as vice-chairmen of the committee.

WCC LEADERS VISIT JAPAN

Japan has been favored with a veritable flood of distinguished visitors on their way back home from the New Delhi meetings. These were extremely welcome visits and helped to broaden the vision and encourage those who were able to meet and talk with them. Unfortunately they were only stopover visits and did not provide an opportunity for deeper fellowship and study.

However, for the month of January, Japan NCC offices report the planned visits of three WCC leaders who will be able to meet with their Japanese counterparts in their respective areas of responsibility.

Miss Madeline Barot, Commission on the Cooperation of Man and Women in The Church and Society, who has already arrived in Japan, is carrying on discussions, centered about the Home and New Life Movement Committee activities.

Miss G. Hubble, secretary of the World Mission and Evangelism Committee, newly formed with the merger of the WCC and IMC, will discuss and investigate "The Qualifications and Preparation of Missionaries," with church leaders of Japan.

Also, Dr. H. H. Wolf, head of the Ecumenical Institute of Switzerland, is slated to arrive on January 24. He will lecture at theological seminaries and discuss with church leaders on "The Church in Modern European Theology."

